

REMARKS

Regarding reference characters in the drawings, it is believed the Examiner may have overlooked the Preliminary Amendment in which reference characters were deleted from the claims as well as the abstract. (By an oversight, two reference characters were left in claim 1 but they have now been deleted.)

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 and, hence, is, in substance, claim 3 written in independent form. Claim 6 is, in substance, claim 4 written in independent form, moreover amended to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph by the recitation that the through hole is formed through connection areas between "two adjacent ones of the three portions". Claim 7 is, in substance, claim 5 written in independent form.

Certain additional amendments have been made. Original claims 1-4 to a "wheel locking device" had recited that the device is attached to and locks a wheel of a vehicle, implying that the claims were directed to a locking device together with a wheel of a vehicle and, hence, to a locking device together with a vehicle, contrary to the opening words of the claim and the applicant's obvious intention that the claim be directed to a locking device for a wheel of a vehicle. Therefore, claim 1 as presently amended and claim 6 recite that the wheel locking device is "to be" attached to a wheel of a vehicle. Original claims 5 to 6 to a "wheel locking device" in fact recited a combination of two wheel locking devices, respective metal "wires" (e.g., cables or chains) attached to the respective wheel

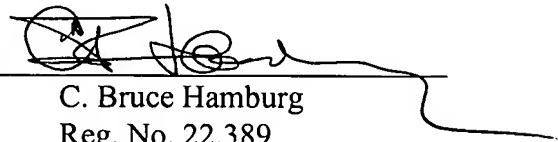
locking devices and a lock for interconnecting and locking together the respective metal wires. Thus, the body of the claim was inconsistent with the opening words of the claim in the aforementioned respects as well as in positively reciting wheels and a vehicle. Therefore, claim 7, which takes the place of claim 5, recites a wheel locking system comprising a pair of the wheel locking devices, the metal "wires" and the lock and that the wheel locking devices are "to be" attached to respective front and rear wheels of a vehicle.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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